

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING FROM THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request approval to accept federal grant funds for food and shelter vouchers to serve Department of Mental Health clients.

REQUEST

Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to accept federal grant funding from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP), in the amount of \$62,000, to provide food and shelter for Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to accept future EFSP grant funding awards for the provision of food and shelter vouchers, provided that the Director of Mental Health notifies your Board in writing within 30 days of the acceptance of such awards.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to accept the award of \$62,000 in EFSP Phase 28 funding, passed through the United Way, to provide food and shelter resources to clients receiving mental health services in each of the County's eight service areas. Agencies were allowed to apply for up to \$10,000 maximum for each funding category. The EFSP, through a formula based on resources needed, taking into account the volume of qualified applicants for each Service Area, determined the final amount of award to be granted to DMH. The timeline for expenditure of these funds extends through October 31, 2010. In addition, approval will allow the Department to accept future EFSP grant funding to provide additional food and shelter services to DMH clients.

The EFSP was established in 1983 to supplement and expand the capacity of local social service agencies to help people with economic emergencies. DMH has many clients across the County that are in need of food and shelter resources related to poverty, homelessness and financial crisis. In addition to the normal profile of DMH clients, DMH has seen an increase in the number of requests for services, including assistance with food and shelter, from individuals and families that have not traditionally sought DMH services. The current economic crisis, including a record number of

foreclosures and unemployment, has had a significant impact on the mental health of the residents of Los Angeles County. DMH continually seeks to identify funding and develop programs to meet the needs of these individuals. At present, only clients in programs with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds have access to assistance with food and motel vouchers through MHSA Client Supportive Services (CSS) or flex funding.

BACKGROUND

Only non-profit organizations and government agencies are eligible to receive EFSP funding. These funds are to be utilized by programs currently providing services to clients and cannot be used to start programs or prevent their closure. Further, EFSP national board regulations state that all those receiving funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement and extend existing programs and will not be used to substitute or reimburse ongoing programs and services. These funds may be used for costs associated with providing food and shelter vouchers. Food vouchers may be purchased from restaurants or grocery stores. Shelter vouchers, typically for motels, may be issued to provide temporary shelter for a client for up to 30 days. DMH is currently only able to fund food and motel voucher assistance through the MHSA Full Service Partnership CSS flexible funding. The EFSP funding will allow the Department to provide additional resources for clients that are not eligible for Full Service Partnership program services.

DMH Contact:

Kathleen Daly
(213) 639-6757
KDaly@dmh.lacounty.gov

APPROVED BY:

DMH Program – Kathleen Daly
DMH Contracts – Larry Quan
Chief Executive Officer – James Sokalski
County Counsel – Doraine Meyer